

a behavioral health disorder by receiving early recovery services and treatment reasonably expected to deter future criminal behavior. In addition, the participating counties are required to provide an expedited alternative to prosecution for eligible persons who may be harmed by the imposition of criminal sanctions in the absence of the alternative when the alternative is reasonably expected to serve as a sufficient deterrent to criminal conduct. Finally, **Section 3** lists the eligibility criteria for individuals to participate in the program.

Section 4 requires a clinical assessment for a behavioral health disorder of any individual charged with a qualifying offense within 24 hours of an arrest. The assessment will be conducted by a qualified professional from a list of approved assessors for the county provided by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services as required in **Section 8**. **Section 4** also provides procedures for the completion of the assessment. Finally, **Section 4** provides procedures and restrictions for a Commonwealth or county attorney to determine eligibility, admit an individual into the program, and provides time restrictions for the duration of the program.

Under **Section 5**, the designated behavioral health treatment provider is required to assign a case manager. The case manager's responsibilities to coordinate with and oversee the individual through the program are also provided in **Section 5**.

Upon successful completion of the program, **Section 6** requires the court to dismiss the charged offense or offenses with prejudice and discharge the defendant. In addition, all records relating to the case shall be sealed except as provided by KRS 27A.099, and the offense shall be deemed never to have occurred, except for purposes of determining the defendant's eligibility for deferred prosecution under KRS 218.1415. Next, the defendant shall not be required to disclose the arrest or other information relating to the charges or participation in the program on an application for employment, credit, or other type of application unless required to do so by state or federal law. Finally, **Section 6** also provides grounds for an individual to be dismissed from the program.

Section 7 provides program provider eligibility criteria, and requirements for the provider in the process of establishing a specific behavioral health treatment plan.

Section 9 requires the Office of Adult Education within the Department of Workforce Investment of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet to conduct an in-person initial screening of any individual participating in the program within 30 days of the participant beginning the program. **Section 9** also provides minimum requirements to be included in the screening and allows the Department of Workforce Investment to create an electronic registry to be used by participants, treatment plan providers, and prospective employers to assist in matching program participants with employment opportunities.

Section 10 creates the Behavioral Health Conditional Dismissal Program Implementation Council to assist with implementation of the pilot program. The council will be attached to the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and will terminate on September 30, 2027, unless extended by the General Assembly. Membership of the council includes the director of the Office of Drug Control Policy serving as the chair, the director of the Administrative

Office of the Courts, the commissioner of the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, the commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services, the public advocate, and a member of the Kentucky Commonwealth Attorneys' Association. **Section 10** also provides procedural and meeting requirements for the council.

Section 11 amends KRS 197.020 to require the Department of Corrections to promulgate regulations requiring telehealth services in county jails.

The fiscal impact of Sections 1-10 is expected to be moderate to significant on the offices of the participating county attorneys dependent on the size of the budget of the county attorney. The Kentucky County Attorneys' Association (KCAA) states participating county attorney offices will need an additional full-time assistant as well as a paralegal to adequately administer the additional duties. These additional positions are expected to cost approximately \$225,000 including salary and fringe. These positions, however, fall within the umbrella of the Unified Prosecutorial System which will provide state funding. Some local governments supplement salaries with available local government fund dependent upon the local labor market. The Kentucky County Attorneys' Association also indicates they will need a social worker or treatment specialist to assist in carrying out the program. This isn't a position that would fall within the umbrella of the Unified Prosecutorial System. The KCAA indicates that those positions would need to be provided in the bill as most counties don't have the funds necessary for those positions. An entry level Social Service Worker 1 at the Cabinet for Health and Family Services would cost \$76,000 annually including salary and fringe.

The fiscal impact of Section 4 is expected to be minimal, but could be positive. The section requires a court to order the release without bail of a defendant that remains in custody at the time of the agreement.

A person convicted of a Class B misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to 90 days. A person convicted of a Class A misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to 12 months. Misdemeanants are housed in one of Kentucky's 74 full service jails or three life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, this estimated impact will be based on an average cost to incarcerate of \$35.43 per day. While the majority of misdemeanor defendants are granted bail, those who do not will also cost local jails an average cost to incarcerate of \$35.43 per day.

When a court denies bail to a felony defendant, the local government is responsible for incarcerating the defendant until disposition of the case in one of Kentucky's 74 full service jails or three life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, each additional inmate increases facility costs by an average cost to incarcerate of \$35.43, which includes the \$31.34 per diem and medical expenses that the Department of Corrections pays jails to house felony offenders. Upon sentencing, a Class D felon is housed in one of Kentucky's full service jails for the duration of his or her sentence. Class C felons are ineligible for placement in local jails until they are classified at the lowest custody level with 24 months or less to their minimum expiration date or parole eligibility date. The

Department of Corrections pays a jail \$31.34 per day to house a Class D and Class C felon. The per diem may be less than, equal to, or greater than the actual housing cost. Class A and B felons are ineligible for placement in local jails.

The fiscal impact of Section 11 is expected to be minimal on the county jails as there may be some additional technology purchases necessary for the county jails to comply with the provision.

The Kentucky Jailers Association was contacted for input. As of the submission of this Local Mandate Statement, a response has not been received from the organization. When a response is received, the statement may be updated accordingly.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

Part II, above, pertains to the bill as introduced.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff; Kentucky County Attorneys' Association; Unified Prosecutorial System; Kentucky Department of Corrections

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